

## WI Farm to School Newsletter June 2016

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# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

June 20, 2016 | Celebrating Summer in Wisconsin

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [General Updates](#)
- [New Tools and Resources](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences and Events](#)
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## General Updates

Recap of the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

Over 1,000 people attended the 8th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference on June 2-4th at the Monona Terrace Conference Center in Madison, WI. The three-day event featured inspiring field trips, short courses, keynote speakers, and workshops. Many of these sessions featured the fantastic farm to school movement under way around Wisconsin, including a multi-media Local Plenary presentation showcasing farm to cafeteria champions from across the state. Emceed by Tony Schultz, farmer, Stoney Acres Farm, and Frankie Soto, food service director, Abbotsford School District Food Service, attendees heard stories of success from Wisconsin farm to cafeteria partners including farmers, school food professionals, a hospital dietician and the manager of a cooperative food hub. If you attended the conference, please share your feedback with the National Farm to School Network [through this short survey](#). For more recap of the conference, view photos from the event on the [National Farm to School Network's Flickr feed](#).

### Connecting to Great Lakes Farm to School Partners



Wisconsin took the Great Lakes Regional Networking session at the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference by storm, connecting with fellow passionate farm to school practitioners from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota. Want to stay in touch across the region? “Like” the Great Lakes Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/GreatLakesFarmtoSchool](http://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesFarmtoSchool).



### Register for the Great Lakes Apple Crunch 2016

The third annual Great Lakes Apple Crunch will be held at noon on October 13th, 2016. Will you help us reach a million crunchers around the region this year? Register now at [www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch](http://www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch). Schools that register will receive the 2016 Crunch Guide, and elementary schools can receive Crunch stickers for your celebration!

### One in a Melon Award: Congrats to Sheboygan Falls School District

Congratulations to Sheboygan Falls School District for receiving the “One in a Melon” award from the USDA Office of Community Food Systems! Read more about Sheboygan Falls’ award on the [Wisconsin Farm to School Census](#) website.

## New Tools and Resources

### Wisconsin School Meals Rock!

Check out the Department of Public Instruction's [new video message from State Superintendent Tony Evers](#) on school meals and nutrition, with this complimentary video about [Plymouth School District's Farm to School efforts](#). Prepare to be inspired! Want to share an awesome school food photo or story from your district? Use the hashtag **#WISchoolMealsRock** and share with DPI on [one of their social media platforms](#).



### USDA Releases New “Farm to School Works” Fact Sheet

The new [USDA Fact Sheet](#) provides a summary of findings from the [2015 Farm to School Census](#) and recent research studies to provide evidence that farm to school initiatives stimulate local and regional economies, improve children's health and nutrition, and create widespread school and community benefits.

### University of Minnesota Extension Recorded Webinar: Farm to School 101 & Snap-Ed

Learn how SNAP-Ed programming is being used to further farm to school efforts in Minnesota. While some of the content is specific to Minnesota practitioners, many of the activities mentioned translate to our work here in Wisconsin. Check out the recorded webinar here: <http://z.umn.edu/167l>

### USDA's Planning for Farm to School Success in 2016 Webinar Series

The USDA Office of Community Food Systems just wrapped up a series of webinars that guide viewers through their Farm to School Planning Toolkit. To watch the 30-minute webinar recordings, visit the [Community Food Systems Webinars and Videos Website](#).

## Webinars, Conferences and Events

### NFSN Farm to Early Care and Education Group Webinar

Wednesday, July 13 // 2:30-4 pm CT

Registration is now open for the July Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Group Webinar. This month's webinar will focus on celebrating and connecting with diverse cultures and communities through farm to early care and education initiatives. Practitioners from across the country will share their approach to incorporating culturally relevant curriculum, resources and programming into their farm to early care and education work and increasing opportunities for meaningful engagement with children, families and communities. All Core Partners and Farm to ECE Group members are invited to attend. If you have suggestions for additional partners who would benefit from this webinar, please contact Lacy Stephens ([lacy@farmtoschool.org](mailto:lacy@farmtoschool.org)), Farm to Early Care and Education Associate. [Register here](#).



## 6th Farm-Based Education Network National Gathering

November 4-6 // Concord, MA

Save the date! Educators, farmers, nonprofit organization staff, parents, nutrition practitioners, policy makers, students, and more will come together to share skills and resources, build relationships, and celebrate the vibrant field of farm-based education. Workshops will focus on program development, marketing, fundraising, the balance of production and education, non-profit board management, and much more. Peer educators will showcase their sites during field trips and workshops, a keynote address will spark discussion, and group meals will allow for ample networking time. [Learn more here.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### Early Care and Education Garden Micro Grants

Community GroundWorks is now accepting applications for its Early Care and Education (ECE) Garden Micro Grant project. With funding from Race to the Top, these one-time garden micro grants will offer regulated Wisconsin child care programs participating in YoungStar up to \$1,000 to create new gardens or up to \$300 to expand existing gardens. This grant opportunity has been provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge Grant. To find out more information on how to apply, please visit the [Community Groundworks website](#). Questions? Contact Beth Hanna at [microgrant@communitygroundworks.org](mailto:microgrant@communitygroundworks.org) or 608-310-8844.



### Donald Herb Garden Grant, Herb Society of America

The Herb Society of America is inviting applications from teachers in grades 3 to 6 for its 2016-17 Donald Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grant. Through the program, the society will award up to ten \$200 grants to public and private school teachers in grades 3 to 6 to cultivate an indoor or outdoor herb garden. The funds may be used for materials such as soil, plant trays, containers, child- or youth-sized tools, etc. Selected classrooms selected will receive three windowsill herb garden kits complete with pots, soil, seeds, and educational materials for use in the classroom. [Learn more here.](#)

# Farm to School Media Mentions

[Lewiston-Altura kindergartners visit bison farm](#) by Marcia Ratliff, La Crosse Tribune



[“The food system is broken”: National Farm to Cafeteria Conference focuses on nutrition and food justice](#) by Linda Falkenstein, The Isthmus



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